

EXHIBIT F

New chrome-free paint primer to cover Apaches in production this summer



The first Apache aircraft was sprayed with the seafoam green primer April 19. The new primer is being gradually phased in, while the plant finishes using the final stores of the old, chromated primer. [Mike Goettings photo]

The Rotorcraft Systems site in Mesa, Ariz., will begin using a new, chrome-free, environmentally friendly paint primer on Apache helicopters in production beginning this summer.

The Mesa facility is the first Boeing site to spray a chrome-free primer on its entire aircraft.

The first Apache aircraft was sprayed with the seafoam green primer April 19. The new primer is being gradually phased in, while the plant finishes using the final stores of the old, chromated primer.

"After years of research and thanks to the continuing support of our Overhead Management Team, we are finally there," said Ramesh Patel, one of the Materials, Process and Standards (MP&S) engineers at the Mesa facility who worked on the primer project. "The new primer no longer contains chrome and still gives the Apache the corrosion protection it needs."

"This is great news for the company, our employees and the environment," said Bill Pool, Mesa site Safety, Health and Environmental Affairs manager. "Potential exposure to chrome by Boeing employees during the primer application will no longer be an issue we have to manage with use of personal protective equipment."

"Additionally we will immediately reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated in the manufacturing process and the amount of chrome going into the environment," he said.

The new primer complies with a 2006 requirement by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration to control chromium exposure in the workplace.

"When our Army customer does aircraft painting in the field, they will no longer need personal protective equipment for chrome either," Patel said.

The Boeing Company has been searching for an acceptable substitute for the primer for many years and the St. Louis site has been testing materials for more than five years, Patel said.

Using research efforts that began in St. Louis, Patel and MP&S Engineer Nancy Carlson started evaluation of a promising primer from Deft Coatings, Inc.

After many tests inside the lab, the new, environmentally friendly primer was chosen.